

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08271 291705Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/074 W

----- 049776

R 291620Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1045

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 8271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: GREECE CELEBRATES "OHI" DAY

1. YESTERDAY, GREECE CELEBRATED "OHI" DAY, COMMEMORATING THE REFUSAL ON OCTOBER 28, 1940 BY THEN DICTATOR METAXAS TO CAPITULATE TO ITALIAN DEMANDS AND WHICH LED TO GREECE'S ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR II. THE PRINCIPAL CELEBRATION TOOK PLACE IN THESSALONIKI, AND WAS ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT TSATSOS, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL ARBOUZIS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES. IN ATHENS A DOXOLOGY ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET WAS HELD AT THE CATHEDRAL AND MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS PLACED A WREATH ON THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

2. THE THESSALONIKI ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A REPORTEDLY IMPRESSIVE MILITARY PARADE WHICH ALLOWED THE ARMED FORCES TO DEMONSTRATE SOME OF THEIR MORE RECENTLY ACQUIRED HARDWARE, SUCH AS MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, AMX-30 TANKS, MILAN MISSILES, ETC. SUBSEQUENTLY, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF COMMENTED TO THE MEDIA THAT THE PARADE HAD BEEN A MOST IMPRESSIVE ONE. IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08271 291705Z

CONGRATULATING THE SERVICE CHIEFS ON THE PARADE, HE SAID THEY

HAD ONCE AGAIN OFFERED THE GREEK PEOPLE PROOF THAT THE ARMED FORCES WERE DEVOTED TO DUTY AND FULLY PREPARED, IF NEED BE, TO DEFEND AGAIN THE HONOR AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATION.

3. IN AN ORDER-OF-THE-DAY ISSUED THE PREVIOUS DAY, THE DEFENSE MINISTER NOTED THAT THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO GREECE, WITH ONLY GREAT BRITAIN STRUGGLING TO KEEP IN THE FIGHT, HAD TAKEN UP THE CUDGELS AGAINST THE AXIS POWERS. "DESPITE THE HUGE ODDS AGAINST THEM, OUR FATHERS DECIDED TO FIGHT BECAUSE THE HONOR AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY WAS AT STAKE...THIS DETERMINED ACTION BY OUR FATHERS MUCH RESIMBLES THAT OF OUR FOREFATHERS IN 1821. THERE, TOO, THE STRUGGLE WAS UNEQUAL. THERE, TOO, THEY STOOD ALONE IN THEIR NOBLE DEFENSE OF THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM AND HONOR...MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES, I KNOW THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR FATHERS AND FOREFATHERS. AND I KNOW THAT YOU ARE READY TO IMITATE THEIR EXAMPLE IF NEED BE FOR THE HONOR AND INDEPENDENCE OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY."

4. IN A SIMILAR ORDER-OF-THE-DAY, GENERAL ARBOUZIS RECALLED THE HISTORIC DAY WITH PRIDE. HE ALSO CITED THE NATION'S STRENGTH WHICH DERIVED FROM THE SPIRITUAL SUPERIORITY OF THE GREEK RACE AND THE GREEK PEOPLE'S LOVE FOR AND CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ARMED FORCES IN REMAINING STRICTLY DEVOTED TO DUTY AND UNITED AND READY TO RISE AS ONE MAN TO DEFEND THE HONOR AND INTEGRITY OF THE NATION.

5. COMMENT: "OHI" DAY WAS UNDERSTANDABLY THE OCCASION FOR A BIT OF NATIONALISTIC BREASTBEATING. IT ALSO SERVED AS A FORUM FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES TO ADDRESS SOME MORALE-BOOSTING WORDS TO BOTH THEIR CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CONSTITUENTS AS WELL AS TO WARN POTENTIAL ENEMIES OF GREECE'S DETERMINATION TO DEFEND HERSELF IF THIS BECAME NECESSARY. KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, WORLD WAR II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS08271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750375-0875
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751012/aaaaajwe.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREECE CELEBRATES "OHI" DAY
TAGS: PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006